



## Making the Synagogue Shine

In an insightful essay from his book, *The Heart of Torah*, Rabbi Shai Held identifies two different meanings of the word *tzimtzum* – contraction – in our tradition. We are most familiar with the term as a core concept in Kabbalah. Rabbi Isaac Luria who lived and taught in Safed in the 16th century used the word *tzimtzum* to describe the process by which God contracted her/his divine light in order to allow room for creation to exist. According to Luria, without this contraction it would not be possible for anything to exist at all. The problem however is that as result of this contraction, the divine light was diminished in creation.

Rabbi Held points out that the actual rabbinic origins of the word *tzimtzum* have been all but forgotten due to its overwhelming association with Lurianic Kabbalah. In the Talmud, *tzimtzum* means something different and it is connected with one of the key verses in Parsha Terumah. At the beginning of Terumah God tells Moses to tell the children of Israel to bring gifts and “let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them” (Exod 25:8). In a midrash that comments on this verse Moses is shocked and confused by God’s instructions. Moses says, “Master of the universe, the highest heavens can’t contain you and yet you ask for a sanctuary!” God says to Moses that it is not as he thinks. God will descend and contract (*metzamtzem*) God’s indwelling presence below. “*Tzimtzum* for the Rabbis is not about God’s need to contract in order to allow space for creation. It is a way to explain how an infinite God can dwell in a finite space.”

The Rabbinic meaning of *tzimtzum* focuses on how we can be in relationship with God and indeed with one another. God is transcendent but far from being diminished, God is very much a pulsating living force in the universe who cares deeply for humanity and needs a mishkan, a dwelling place, here in this world among us. Interestingly though, the commandment to build the mishkan has a very interesting twist. God commands Moses to instruct the people to build a sanctuary so that God can dwell, not in it, but among them. The ultimate dwelling place of the Source of all Life is not in the highest heavens or in a building but in community and in the hearts of all who truly seek the divine encounter and true authentic relationship.

*continued over...*

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*Thank you to the Armstrong family for sponsoring the Renewal kiddush and the Garvin family plus Romy Erlich & Marcus Schweizer for sponsoring the Masorti kiddush.*

### MAZAL TOV

**Allie Armstrong**  
on her **Bat Mitzvah**  
(*Neuweg*)

**Samuel Garvin**  
on his **Bar Mitzvah**  
(*New Sanctuary*)

**Romy Erlich & Marcus Schweizer** on their *auf ruf*  
(*New Sanctuary*)

### CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday 7:37pm

Saturday 8:34pm

**TORAH** (page 485)

Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

**HAFTARAH** (page 499)

Kings I 5:26 - 6:13

### SHABBAT SERVICES

#### Erev Shabbat

- 6:15pm *Shabbat Live*  
(*New Sanctuary*)
- 6:15pm - Masorti service  
(*Neuweg*)

#### Shabbat Morning

- 9:00am -  
Masorti service  
(*New Sanctuary*)
- 10:00am -  
Renewal service  
(*Neuweg*)
- 10:00am -  
Progressive service  
(*Education Centre*)

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Renewal Beach Shabbat  
February 22 from 7:00pm

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Morning minyan is on  
Monday and Thursdays  
at 6:45am

I am overjoyed and feel deeply blessed to be back at Emanuel and to have the opportunity to be in community with you all after so many years overseas. The new sanctuary is complete and it is beautiful. It is all of you, however, that make this synagogue shine. Without your presence, it is just a beautiful building, but with your voices and participation the *shechinah*, God's indwelling presence, finds a *dira betahaton*, a dwelling place here in our sanctuary and in this world.

*Shabbat Shalom,*

Cantor George Mordecai

## Renewal Kabbalat Shabbat at the Beach with Music & Picnic

February 22nd from 7:00pm

with live music on the sand followed by a picnic on the grass. Children welcome.

Please email for the location in Sydney:

[orna@emmanuel.org.au](mailto:orna@emmanuel.org.au)

## Jewnatal

Calling all expecting couples, regardless of whether this is your first, second or more! Join Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth for a series of informal sessions, designed as preparation for birth in a Jewish context. This is also a wonderful opportunity to meet those who are about to welcome a new bundle of joy in their lives.

The next series begins on Sunday, 10 February from 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Please call the office on 9389 6444 for details.

Emanuel Synagogue and Plus61J present  
 Israel, Jews & the Middle East through film  
 Wednesday February 20 from 7:00pm  
 Lama Films Presents  
**Children of the Sun** ילדי השמש  
 A film by Ran Tal  
 tinyurl.com/sun-film



Rabbi Jeffrey B. Kamins OAM  
 Arno & Hella Seefeldt Rabbinic Chair



Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio



Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth



Rev. Sam Zwarenstein  
 Director of Communal Engagement



Cantor George Mordecai



Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff

# WHAT'S ON

## *Kef Kids -*

**Thursdays from 4:00pm-5:30pm**

Kef Kids is an educational program for children in years K-5 - an exciting, fun way for kids to connect with Judaism and their community.

**SAVE THE DATE** - 20th March - The world-famous Emanuel Synagogue Purim Spiel Returns!

## **Lunch 'n' Learn**

**Join us this Saturday February 9th after services**

For a special presentation by Dudu Gotlib, Netzer & Community Shaliach

### ***Countdown to the Israeli Elections***

Learn about the various parties, what are the views on pressing matters, who would they want to form a coalition with and try to guess the outcomes.

***Conversations about Israel - every Monday from 10:00am-11:30am***

**Monday February 11 -**

**Nadav Tamir - Director of International Affairs at The Peres Center for Peace**

***Israel/US relations in the Trump/Netanyahu Era***

## **Learn to chant Torah with Cantor Mordecai**

**6:00pm-7:00pm Mondays**

No previous Torah chanting experience is needed, but you will need to have a functional proficiency in reading Hebrew with vowels. It is not necessary to be able to read musical notation. Covering all of the tropes used in regular Shabbat Torah chanting.

Details and register at: [tinyurl.com/chant-torah](http://tinyurl.com/chant-torah)

## **Jewish Meditation Class**

**Tuesday nights in March 7:30pm-9:00pm**

in Neuweg with Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff - no charge. All welcome.

**Thomas Mayor in conversation  
with Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins**

**Sunday March 3rd from 5:00pm-6:30pm**

**The historic constitutional moment  
created by the Uluru Statement from the Heart**

*The Uluru Statement came as a result of an unprecedented gathering of Indigenous leaders and held out an invitation to non-indigenous Australians to join with them in a process of truth-telling and political attentiveness.*

*What was the statement all about and what are the implications for Australia?*

Members free Non-members \$25 including light refreshments

Book now: <https://events.humanitix.com.au/uluru>

**In  
conversation**



# IN MEMORY

There are mourners in our community to whom we extend our sincerest sympathies on the death of their loved ones.

*Shiva:* Shai Pinto, Steven Glass

*Shloshim:* Rose Mikardo, Heather Rosing, Peter Fleischer, Harry Smith, Golda Prince, Harvey Cohen, Susan Susskind, Samuel Nitchingham Michael Toben, Shula Endrey-Walder Annalise Braakensiek, Evrille Bortz

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This week we observe the Yahrzeits of (observed by):

\* Memorial Light

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\* **Wally Arenson** (Bess Arenson, Elana Leigh, Belinda Levy)  
**Rene Bassine** (Netty Grant)  
**Bognar, Magda** (George Bognar)  
**Hannah Sarah (Hansey) Davis Simblist** (Caroline Haski, Barbara Leser)  
**Edward Dunn** (Richard Dunn)  
**Ella Joyce Dyason** (Ann Rubner)  
**Rose May Ellis** (Rosalyn Baker)  
**Moss Henry Ellis** (Rosalyn Baker)  
**Mary Faire** (Anne Newman)  
**Emeric Faire** (Anne Newman)  
**Abraham Feldman** (Judy Menczel, Zoe Mendel-Schrire)  
**Anna Fridgant** (Yelena Fleischer)  
**Ida Henrietta Frish** (David Frish)  
**Janusz (Jack) Garda** (Eugina Langley)  
\* **Michael Garda** (Eugina Langley)  
\* **Michael Gilbert** (Roslyn Hakim)  
\* **Harriet (Lil) Goldman**  
\* **Sidney Grant** (Jeffrey Grant, Netty Grant)  
**Nellie Grinberg** (Reg Grinberg)  
**Anna Guttman** (Miriam Guttman-Jones)  
**Aviva Hadjes** (Myriam Romano)  
\* **Dora Harris** (Harry Harris)  
**Amnon Huberman** (Roi Huberman)  
**Abbe Ihaka** (Wayne Ihaka)  
**Pheobe Jacobs** (Barbara Holmes)  
**Helena Jucovic** (Miriam Van Rooijen)  
**Peggy Kauffmann** (Dianne Joseph)  
**Robert Klarnet** (Jack Klarnet)

**Michael Lansky** (Pamela Lansky Williams)  
\* **Marek Lebesman**  
**Elie Mani** (Dahlia Brigham)  
**Evelyn Mintz** (Peter Mintz)  
**Gabriella Meller Gacs** (Peter Gacs)  
**John Robert Morrison** (Lois Harris)  
**William Myers** (John Cooper)  
**Arno Neumann** (Sonja Neumann)  
**Anna Obrart** (Alan Obrart)  
**Chava Oren** (Dahlia Dior)  
**Peter Pelz** (Helen Mushin)  
**Elinka Rabin** (Milly Goldman)  
\* **Ernst Rosenthal**  
**Beverly Rothstein Frankel** (Serena Edstein)  
**Roy Schapera** (Louise Leibowitz)  
**David Schwarz** (Peter Adler)  
\* **Maurice Simmons**  
**Fredrick Swaab** (Debbie Hausman)  
**Peter Tannenbaum** (Gene Sherman)  
**Erica Turek** (Yvonne Haber)  
**Harriet Ungar** (Dianne Joseph)  
**Ruby Wallace** (Michelle Stein-Evers Frankl)  
\* **Dora Wolfson**  
**Brian Hardy** (Elaine Hardy)

**Shoah Remembrance:** Pinchas Weintraub was born in 1909 in Lublin, Poland and lived in Warsaw, Poland until he was murdered in 1943 in Treblinka, Poland during the Holocaust.